UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lisa Kijewski-Womer,	Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff,	
V.	
Everest Receivable Services, Inc.; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	COMPLAINT
Defendants.	

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Lisa Kijewski-Womer, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA").
 - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 4. The Plaintiff, Lisa Kijewski-Womer ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Albrightsville, Pennsylvania, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. Defendants Everest Receivable Services, Inc. ("Everest"), is a New York business entity with an address of 352 Sonwil Drive, Cheektowaga, New York 14222, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Everest and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
 - 7. Everest at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Everest for collection, or Everest was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Everest Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. On or around December 2017, Everest called Plaintiff's mother in an attempt to collect the Debt from Plaintiff.
- 13. Everest falsely stated to Plaintiff's mother that it was with "Cerebral Palsy Fund" and that it needed to speak with Plaintiff regarding work. Everest left its call back number and asked Plaintiff's mother to have Plaintiff return the call to Everest.
- 14. When Everest spoke with Plaintiff, Everest demanded Plaintiff's social security number before disclosing the nature of the call.
 - 15. Plaintiff refused to provide Everest with her social security number.

- 16. Despite knowing that Plaintiff refused to provide her social security number, Everest continued to place calls to Plaintiff without engaging in a substantive conversation.
- 17. Everest failed to send Plaintiff a written collection letter advising Plaintiff of her rights, including the right to dispute the Debt.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 18. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 19. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 20. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 21. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendants communicated with individuals other than the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff's attorney, or a credit bureau.
- 22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 23. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged Plaintiff in telephone conversations with the intent to annoy and harass Plaintiff.

- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendants used false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.
- 26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) in that Defendants failed to send Plaintiff an initial letter within five days of its initial contact with Plaintiff as required by law.
- 27. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 28. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II

<u>VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CREDIT EXTENSION</u> <u>UNIFORMITY ACT, 73 P.S. § 2270, et seq.</u>

- 29. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
 - 30. The Plaintiff is a "consumer," as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 31. The Defendants are each individually a "debt collector" as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 32. The Defendants violated provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq., which constitutes an unfair or deceptive practice under 73 P.S. § 2270.4(a).
 - 33. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendants' violations.

COUNT III

VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, 73 P.S. § 201-1, et seq.

- 34. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 35. The Defendants' violations of the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity

 Act constitute per se violations under the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer

 Protection Law.
- 36. The Defendants' acts were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law.
- 37. As a result of the Defendants' violations, the Plaintiff has suffered ascertainable losses entitling the Plaintiff to actual, statutory and treble damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendants;
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A) against the Defendants;
- 3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and 73 P.S. § 2270.5 against the Defendants;
- 4. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 2270.5(c);
- 5. Actual damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
- 6. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
- 7. Treble damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
- 8. Actual damages from the Defendants for all damages including emotional

distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;

- 9. Punitive damages; and
- 10. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: April 24, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Jody B. Burton

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